911 a few with bad finance and good work and the majority with bad
913 finances and doing bad work.

911 There were to be seen specimens of good Panchyats as Dhemake-
tupalli in Aantapur, Bandar Forest in Kistna, East Ramalkota in Kurnool and Jaga, in Bellary.

Dhemaketupalli Forest Panchayat was an ideal type so far as Anantapur was concerned. Its jurisdiction extended over 3 villages of Hensakepalli, Kanchi Samudram and Chila Mathur along with the hamlets of Godarallapalli, Kellapuram, Godepalli, Manda Makulapalli, Gorgatipalli, etc. The big tank in the middle of the Forest Panchayat was repaired and a big nursery was developed for plantation of about 50 trees of Margosa, Peta, Kanga Neridi, Tangedu, etc., every year. It also prepared the fuel coups. The sale value of Tangedu was usually given to the Forest Panchayat, but even that was stopped for the time being. In Kistna District, Bandar was the ideal type of Forest Panchayat and Jaggayapeta was another good specimen. Here the Forest Panchayat spent every year a good sum for the repairs and up-keeps of the ponds and the tanks. East Ramalkota in Kurnool began planting every year 100 trees of which about 25 survived. Repairs along with cleaning of the tank for cattle were regularly done. Scent from Khuskhus was prepared and sold. Here cairns were white washed and kept neat. In Bellary Jaga Forest Panchayat was the biggest of its type.

There were some moderate Panchayats, where though the income was not much, the working showed good enthusiasm, as for instance the Forest Panchayats like Kanavalli, Kanchikari, Nenikathi, and Saluvojigi in Bellary. Here the income of the Panchayats was not much yet they paid some attention to the maintenance of cairns, repairs of ponds, etc. They also took up the work of plantations of Margosa, Mango, Tangedu, etc.

The majority of the Forest Panchayats sufferd from both bad finances and bad administration too. They were not able to pay adequate attention to the several functions entrusted to them.

911 **Departmental Administration** : As a means of improving their
656 administration, the Government started taking up their management and handed it over to the Revenue Department. This, in practice, proved to be a more miserable failure than the existing system of management by the Panchayats. For instance in Anantapur out of the existing 88 Forest Panchayats, 50 were under the manage-

ment of the Revenue Department. Administration of Venkatampalli, Sangina Malka. Durgam, Odepalli and Methola, etc. Forest Panchayats was under the village Munsifs and was pretty unsatisfactory. Moreover no separate administration and supervision reports were maintained by the supervisory staff to distinguish the consequences of the management by the Government. 311 656

Whenever a particular Forest Panchayat was transferred to the charge of the Government, the Panchayat was abolished and the village headman was automatically kept in charge of it. Thereafter, the moiety, the minor forest produce, the income from the fuel coups, etc. the receipts of the sale of dead wood and stone, the quarrying fees, all accrued only to the Government. When the administration of the Forest Panchayat was not satisfactory under an elected Panchayat, it could not be bettered under the village headman and this was proved by experience in every district.

D. Supervision and Control: The number of watchers in relation to the extent of the Forest Panchayat was everywhere thoroughly inadequate. To add to it, the members and the Presidents of the Forest Panchayats in most instances were litigant. In the Collectorate, the Revenue Divisional Officers and Forest Tahsildars were [illegible]nced in number. Forest Tahsildars were still only in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur. Several instances of illicit browsing, cutting fuel coups unnoticed by the supervisory staff who could not always go through the whole of the forest area, etc. continued. The members of the Forest Panchayat sometimes willfully took away the supervisory staff from places where such ravages would be discovered. Some of the Forest Deputy Tahsildars in the course of their interviews observed that generally the members of the Forest Panchayat attempted to mislead them without allowing them to know the real facts of the situation. 311

PART III

Observations

A. Structure: Forest Panchyats in practice were constituted not on one Panchayat to one village basis, but on the basis of the forest area of contiguous villages. The membership varied from one Forest Panchayat to another according to hamlets and communities to be represented. Election was usually by show of hands. The electorate was of the cattle owners in the Forest Panchayat area.

B. Finance: The resources at the disposal of the Forest Panchayats were usually collected unleft, but the oft-repeated 311 652